

**Mabutas, Maria**

**From:** Francesca Vietor [francesca@igc.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 04, 2010 11:47 AM  
**To:** Harrington, Ed  
**Cc:** Spanjian, Laura  
**Subject:** Fwd: You have libeled me

Ed,

Stauber et al are paying attention now, I've received an "apology" from him. Not adequate by a long shot but its a start. And the Guardian responded to me saying "At the Guardian we take accuracy very seriously and our independent readers' editor investigates all cases of complaint. We will be in touch as soon as the readers' editor has reached a decision." I have asked Laura to sit tight with any PUC statements at this point.

I need to be in touch with the City Attorney's office, and I would like it to be with Theresa Mueller, with whom I have a long standing relationship from my days with the Dept of Enviro. Would you please forward me her contact info and if need be, give her a heads up on all of this?

I actually think this is all to the good and the worst is behind us.

Thanks,

Francesca

Date: Thu, 1 Apr 2010 16:43:05 -0700  
To: suzanne.goldenberg@guardian.co.uk  
From: Francesca Vietor <francesca@igc.org>  
Subject: You have libeled me

Ms. Goldenberg,

I am writing to you and the Guardian's editor, Alan Rusbridger, in regards to the story you published this morning in The Guardian, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/apr/01/alice-waters-sewage-fertiliser>. As I do not have Mr. Rusbridger's email, I am directing this email to the Reader's Editor at The Guardian with the request that it be forwarded to Mr. Rusbridger. In addition, I am copying my attorney, Ms. Christina Desser, Esq., on this email.

In your story, you write, without citing a source, "The San Francisco giveaway was overseen by Francesca Vietor, an executive of the city's power company who also sits on the chef's foundation." This statement is false, it damages my professional reputation, and you were

informed in advance that it was false, per the statement by the Chez Panisse Foundation that you received this morning from David Prior, Chez Panisse Foundation's Director of Communications. As that statement said, I was unaware of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's program until I was contacted by John Stauber on March 4, 2010, after which I took immediate steps to have the program suspended and additional testing undertaken.

In addition, the fact is that the PUC giveaway program was initiated in May 2007, nearly eighteen months before I was appointed a Commissioner in September 2008. Moreover, because the program was considered within the PUC as an administrative pilot program, it has never been brought before the PUC's five Commissioners for action. This additional background information explains why I was unaware of the program until last month.

Mr. Stauber, who was the original source of this libelous charge against me, has been repeatedly informed that it was false, yet he has persisted in charging that I am somehow "actively promoting sewage sludge." Now, your article has repeated the libel.

I hereby demand that the Guardian publish an immediate retraction and correction of the false and libelous statement contained in your article.

Sincerely,

Francesca Vietor